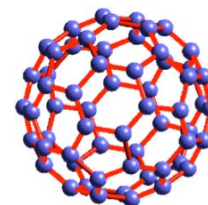




BARNARD COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

MEMORANDUM



To: Chemistry and Biochemistry Majors

From: Christian Rojas, Chair

Re: The New Academic Year

Date: September 8, 2009

Welcome back. As the chemistry department chair and on behalf of all chemistry faculty and staff, I am writing to welcome you back to campus and to provide some general information as the semester gets underway. Our annual **Summer Science Symposium** will be on **Friday September 25, from 2 to 4 PM**. Everyone who did summer research at Barnard or elsewhere is invited to give a short presentation, and all are invited to attend. Refreshments *will* be served! Your talk can be anywhere from 2 to 10 minutes long, with or without PowerPoint. Please tell **Prof. John Magyar** if you wish to present your work so he can prepare a schedule. (Senior thesis students not included: they will present separately; all other students who worked at Barnard are expected to contribute.) If you had an off-campus internship or related research experience this summer and are not presenting, please tell me about it: funding agencies want to know how many of our majors have summer research experience, and we try to keep accurate, complete records.

New Assistant Professor. **Marisa Buzzeo** (BC '01) joins the chemistry department faculty this fall. We are delighted to have an accomplished scientist and Barnard alumna as our newest assistant professor. Prof. Buzzeo's research interests combine biochemistry, electrochemistry, and physical chemistry; she is focusing on developing DNA sensors and studying membrane binding and transport. After graduating from Barnard with a degree in chemistry, Prof. Buzzeo earned her D.Phil. in physical chemistry at the University of Oxford, St. John's College, in the United Kingdom. She did a postdoc with Jacqueline Barton (BC '74) at Caltech and then spent last year as a research scientist at Columbia's Center for Electron Transport in Molecular Nanostructures. Here at Barnard, Prof. Buzzeo is starting up her research lab in one of the new 8th floor labs (see below). She will also be teaching in the Integrated Chemistry Laboratory this fall. In the spring Prof. Buzzeo will teach Thermodynamics and Kinetics and in the Quantitative and Instrumental Techniques Laboratory. Please join me in welcoming Marisa Buzzeo back to Barnard, now as an Assistant Professor!

8th Floor Construction Nearly Complete. You will see major changes on the 8th floor. Over the summer two new offices and two new laboratories were built in the space along the west windows formerly occupied by Professor Chapman's office and classrooms 804 and 809. Prof. Chapman's office is now in Altschul 811 on the northeast corner of the floor. In addition, the hallways and elevator lobby were redone: there is new tiling, a new ceiling and lighting, and a fresh paint scheme. The new offices and labs will be occupied by Prof. Marisa Buzzeo at the south end of the floor and Prof. Alison Williams at the north end. Construction workers are putting the finishing touches on the labs and offices, but Profs. Williams and Buzzeo should be moving in within the next week. In the meantime, Prof. Buzzeo is in room 607A and Prof. Williams is in 605.

Luncheon. Our fall luncheon will be on **Friday November 20, 12–2**, in Sulzberger North Tower. Our speaker will be **Prof. Jonathan Owen**, a new colleague in the Columbia University chemistry department. Prof. Owen is an inorganic chemist with research interests in the development of semiconducting nanocrystals. Most recently, he was a postdoctoral fellow at UC Berkeley in the

group of Paul Alivisatos. Before that he obtained his Ph.D. at Caltech with John Bercaw and a B.S. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he did undergraduate research with Prof. Clark Landis. Please mark your calendars for the luncheon and Prof. Owen's talk.

Seminar/Study Rooms. During the Nexus construction spaces for students to gather are scarce, and now conversion of the former chemistry study room Altschul 804 into new offices and labs puts a further constraint on available space. Room 806, however, is still available for chemistry department use. While it is quite heavily scheduled for classes, office hours, and help sessions, you are free to use the room for individual or group study at other times. If you wish to reserve Altschul 806 check the schedule posted on the door, and contact our Department Administrator, Erika Hawthorne (ehawthorne@barnard.edu, Altschul 610B).

Computer Room. We welcome you to use the chemistry computer room, 613 Altschul. Please be vigilant about security: never leave the room open and empty, even "just for a minute." Students doing chemistry work always have priority, but you may use the computers for other work if no one needs them. On occasion, a class may reserve all the machines. Do not install any software without permission of a faculty member. Never open attachments unless you are absolutely sure they are legitimate. You are welcome to save files *into a folder with your name* in the "Student Documents" folder; files left anywhere else will be deleted without warning. As always, it is a good idea to back up all work. Food and drink are *absolutely* prohibited in this room; violators will be denied access. If a computer or printer is not working properly, please fill out a form and/or tell a faculty member. Please do not print lengthy documents unrelated to chemistry. Since this room is locked it is not cleaned regularly, so please clean up your workspace as you leave. Unless someone is waiting, close with **hibernate** and turn off the monitor.

Bulletin Boards. We receive many notices about seminars, graduate schools, and job opportunities (summer and permanent). On the *8th floor*, look for notices of seminars, full and part-time jobs, and summer opportunities and, on the *7th floor*, selected graduate and professional school posters. Notices of special interest to majors may also be posted on the chemistry board opposite the elevators in the lobby. Also check the department web page <http://www.barnard.edu/chem/>.

Graduate and Professional School. We receive many posters and pamphlets about graduate and professional study, many of which we post on bulletin boards around the department. The American Chemical Society's *Directory of Graduate Research* (available online at <http://dgr.rints.com/>) is very useful for comparing graduate programs and finding information on individual faculty.

Summer Internships for 2010. There are many summer opportunities for chemistry students, here and elsewhere. Some colleges and universities have REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) programs, sponsored by the NSF (National Science Foundation). Often they are looking for rising seniors, but some programs are open to those finishing sophomore year as well. Web pages listing many opportunities are maintained through the college's Howard Hughes program: http://www.barnard.edu/hssp/Internship%20website/science_internships.dwt. Also check the 8th floor bulletin boards. Notices start to arrive in the fall and continue to arrive throughout the year. Application deadlines vary, so check back frequently. Opportunities in chemistry at Barnard will be announced early in the spring semester.

Jobs. If you have a work-study or BC job grant and are looking for placement, please speak to me. There may be some job opportunities in the department. If you have been hired to work in the department, you will first need to fill out I-9 and W-4 forms with the Office of Career Development (OCD) if you have not done so previously. Next, please give our Administrative Assistant, **Molly Gill** (mgill@barnard.edu, Altschul 504A), the following information: your name, the job position, your primary supervisor, and the approximate number of hours/week that you will be working (not to exceed 15 hours/week).

Information. We like to be able to keep in touch with you. Please e-mail Molly Gill (mgill@barnard.edu) or stop by her office (504A Altschul) to check that we have your correct (1) *new* student mailbox number, (2) phone number, and (3) e-mail address. This is especially important if you are not listed in Barnard's on-line directory.

Pictures. We like having pictures of majors for our 8th floor bulletin board. If yours is missing (or if you want a new one), please stop by Molly Gill's office (504A Altschul).

Tutors. Sometimes I receive phone calls from parents seeking chemistry tutors for their high school children. Students in general chemistry and organic chemistry also often request tutors. Tutoring can be an interesting challenge and excellent review, not to mention a good source of income. If you would like me to refer your name, please let me know.

A Final Note. I and the other chemistry faculty are available to help you if you have any questions or problems. We cannot promise to fix everything, but we will do what we can. We, and in particular I, as department chair, want to hear about problems, concerns, or suggestions. If you need to speak privately with me, just say so. I and my colleagues look forward to a successful, productive, and reasonably contented year for everyone.